

Department of Human Services, Bureau of Health, Division of Health Engineering, Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program

Internet:
<http://www.state.me.us/dhs/eng/plumb/plumb.htm>

The Problem in Maine:

Maine is a predominantly rural state, and relies heavily on decentralized sewage disposal facilities for disposal of human waste, i.e., on-site sewage disposal systems. The State of Maine Division of Health Engineering has regulated on-site sewage disposal since 1926.

The **Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program** oversees internal plumbing permit issuance at the local level as well as regulation and subsurface wastewater disposal. A major role is the collection of permit data and the review of sewage disposal waiver requests for replacement malfunctioning sewage systems.

The **Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program** is responsible for licensing soil site evaluators to insure proper design of sewage systems. Improper design and or installation can cost the homeowner as much as \$20,000.

The **Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program** views sewage disposal as a public health function, rather than an environmental regulation.

For Information about the program call:
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State of Maine, Dept. of Human Services
Bureau of Health
Division of Health Engineering
Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program
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Program Goals:

- To oversee the proper design and construction of subsurface sewage disposal systems, and the system of inspection necessary to monitor compliance.
- To develop and administer a voluntary certification program for on-site sewage disposal system installers, in conjunction with the Maine Department of Environmental Protection.
- To develop and maintain a database to track causes and rates of on-site sewage disposal system failure.
- To increase public awareness of on-site sewage disposal system issues, through increased use of Internet resources, regular printings of a Program newsletter, and increased outreach programs.

Program Activities:

The Wastewater and Plumbing Control Program has responsibility to:

- Promulgate and administer the Rules for Appointment and Administration of Local Plumbing Inspectors (CMR 240), Subsurface Waste Water Disposal Rules (CMR 241), Rules for Conversion of Seasonal Dwelling Units into Year-Round Residences in the Shoreland Zone (CMR 242), Minimum Lot Size Rules (CMR 243), , and Rules for Site Evaluators of Subsurface Wastewater Disposal Systems (CMR 245).
- Maintain copies of all plumbing and subsurface waste water permits issued statewide. Approximately 40,000 plumbing permits are processed annually, which generate approximately \$275,000 in dedicated revenue.
- License qualified Soil Site Evaluators to design subsurface waste water disposal systems pursuant to CMR 245.
- Review administration of CMR 241 by municipalities and Local Plumbing Inspectors pursuant to 30-A M.R.S.A. § 4212 et. seq.
- Provide reviews of all engineering plans for compliance with or variance from departmental rules in support of the Division's various program areas.
- Provide interagency reviews and make recommendations for Department of Environmental Protection, Land Use Regulation Commission, Department of Education, and Bureau of Public Improvements, among others.
- Conduct site inspections to assist site evaluators, local officials, and property owners.
- Review and approve new and expanded mausoleums, crypts and cemeteries.

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